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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grace Period Registration Opens

SPRINGFIELD, IL – October 6, 2010 -Although the traditional deadline for registering to vote has closed, a Grace Period allows eligible voters to register until Oct. 26.

Approximately 7.4 million Illinois residents are currently registered for the Nov. 2 election.

State law requires that during the grace period people must register at the office of their election authority and – if they desire to vote in the Nov. 2 general election - must vote at the same office, or by mail at the discretion of the election authority. Those people are not allowed to vote at an Early Voting Center or at a polling place on Election Day.

The registration requirements to be eligible to vote are: be a citizen of the United States; be at least 18 years old by Election Day; and have been a resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day.

When registering to vote, two forms of identification are required – one must show the current address of the applicant. A new state law adds identification that is acceptable for registration. A photo identification card issued by a university or college is acceptable, but would need to be supplemented by something showing the current address, such as a copy of the voter's lease or mail postmarked to the voter's address.

Illinois residents may check their registration online by going to www.elections.il.gov and clicking “Voters” at the top of the page and then clicking “Am I Registered?” on the next page.

All of the Early Voting Centers across the state will be open Oct. 12. A few of the Early Voting Centers will be open on Monday, the Columbus Day Holiday. Check with your local election officials for details.

Voters in this election will elect candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, comptroller, U.S. Senate, representatives in Congress, state senators and representatives in the General Assembly, certain county offices and judges.

In the race for the U.S. Senate, there is a special election to fill an unexpired term as well as the election to a full six-year term. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois declared a special election for the unexpired term for U.S. Senator to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Barack Obama on Nov. 16, 2008. The official ballot will include candidates to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term which will immediately follow the candidates on the ballot for the six-year term. The candidate elected to fill the unexpired term will serve in the current Congress from the time that the election results are final until the new Congress convenes on Jan. 3, 2011.

The State Board of Elections has scheduled a meeting Nov. 23 to certify the vote in the special election for the Senate.

The State Board of Elections is an independent state agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the State.

Elections are administered locally by the State’s 110 election authorities.

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